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Letter from Samuel L. Clemens (Mark Twain) to Joseph Twichell, December 2, 1898

Samuel L. Clemens

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Vienna, Dec. 2/98

Dear Joe -

I will not try to talk about it, it breaks my heart. Ned Bunce was very very near & dear to me, & to all this home-circle of mine; & he was always that, from the beginning.

They have begun to fall! The charm is broken, the others will follow, now. While we are trying to imagine a Hartford without Ned Bunce in it, we are reminded to prepare to imagine a Hartford with the rest gone that made

it Hartford to us & not Waterbury or some other mere geographical expression — & that can arrive before we see it again, short as the interval may be.

You have our love,
Dear Joe & Harmony, &
you & Hartford & ourselves
have our commiseration.

Mark.

We are keeping it from
the children — & shall, as long
as we can.